AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following after paragraph [0019] of the Brief Description of the Drawings, and before the Detailed Description:

-- **Fig. 10** is a state diagram showing transition between different states of a Link Training State Machine (LTSM). --

Please make the following amendment to paragraph [0031]:

[0031]   **Fig. 2** also shows a link training state machine (LTSM) 244. The LTSM 244 is a Physical Layer sub-block that is responsible for the link initialization process that configures and trains the constituent parts of a link so that normal packet traffic (from and to the Data Link Layer) can proceed through the link. Under PCI Express, the LTSM 244 is defined with a number of top-level states with each consisting of sub-states. There are link training states (Detect, Polling, and Configuration), link retraining (Recovery), power management states (L0, L1, L2/3), active power management states (L0s, L1), and other states (Hot Reset, External Loopback, and Disabled). See **Fig. 10.** The LTSM 244 enters and exits a state, for example, depending on whether certain conditions in the link interface 124 are met. The LTSM 244 also controls the link interface 124 to perform certain operations that have been defined for each state.

Please make the following amendment to paragraph [0037]:

[0037]   In the PCI Express embodiment, the CMM mode is in addition to the training state referred to under PCI Express as Polling·Compliance. See **Fig. 10.** In the Polling·Compliance state, the transmitters of an IC device repeat a data pattern that is referred to as a compliance pattern, but the receivers in the IC device are essentially ignored for all but the detection of a unanimous exit (of all lanes) from electrical idle. According to an embodiment of the invention, the CMM mode may be a proprietary extension of Polling·Compliance. Note that in

CMM mode, the receive path is active such that comparisons are performed on the symbols received in each lane, to evaluate the pattern of the symbols that have been received for any errors. This additional mode allows the IC device and in particular its link interface to be user configurable (or also referred to as "run-time programmable") to better characterize and ensure the correct functionality of the link interface.